

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. ^{B-}4685

1. Name

Historic 1700-1712 North Durham Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1700-1712 North Durham Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of seven two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built in 1900 by Abraham Neifeld, a small-scale builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted a dark red, with the basement area painted white to imitate the marble basements of more expensive houses.

After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used. By the early years of the 20th century, the most popular form of sheet metal cornice sported ball finials and often classical motifs like swags pressed into the frieze area. Generally, only main street two-story houses had decorated friezes—the builder saved money on his small street versions by eliminating them. Likewise, while the main street houses in this style would have marble basements, stringers, lintels, and steps, builders used no marble at all on their small street versions, painting the basements white instead. Main street houses would have stained glass transoms over both the door and the wide first floor window; on the small streets builders offered stained glass only in the door transom.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 55' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal cornice with a deep frieze area decorated by a row of dentils and a lower molding band of cut-work decoration. The two end brackets have acanthus leaf decoration, end in a trefoil design, were capped with a ball finial that projected high above the cornice line. The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of two rows of headers, and scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. Unlike later houses of this style, the first floor windows are not wider than those on the second floor. All originally had 2/2 sash, some of which survive. Doorways are filled with a variety of replacement door types. The single-light transoms may originally have been filled with stained glass panels bearing the house number. The houses sit on fairly low basements lit by a single-light sash, set beneath a double-header segmental arch. Each front door is reached by three brick or concrete steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1900

Builder/Architect Abraham Neifeld

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant as representing the very last type of small street houses to be built, in the period c. 1900 – 1909, when a new city ordinance outlawed building houses on streets less than 40' wide. The houses were built by Abraham Neifeld, a small-scale local builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200-\$1,500; small street houses for \$700-\$750.

In this particular case Neifeld built two 14'-wide and two 15'-wide houses on the north side of Lanvale St., which he sold to owner-occupants, as well as the seven houses on Durham St. Of these he sold only two and retained the other five for their rental income. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

E. LAFAYETTE

1906 City Atlas

1700-1712 N. Durham St.
BALTO. MD

3-4685

N. BROA

120

E. LANVALE

1466

LANVING

E. FEDERAL

1477

CRYSTAL AVE.

E. OLIVER

1494

HOFFMAN PL.

SASH FACTORY

NAIL & RIVET FACTORY

BALTIMORE CITY

WATER DEPT.

1495

N ST.

1458

1468

1479

1498

1497

95

BETHANY M.P. CH.

1459

80

N. CASTLE

1469

ST.

1470

1471

1482

1481

BREWERY OF G. Bauernschmidt Company

90

BELAIR AVE.

1498

KEYSER

1499

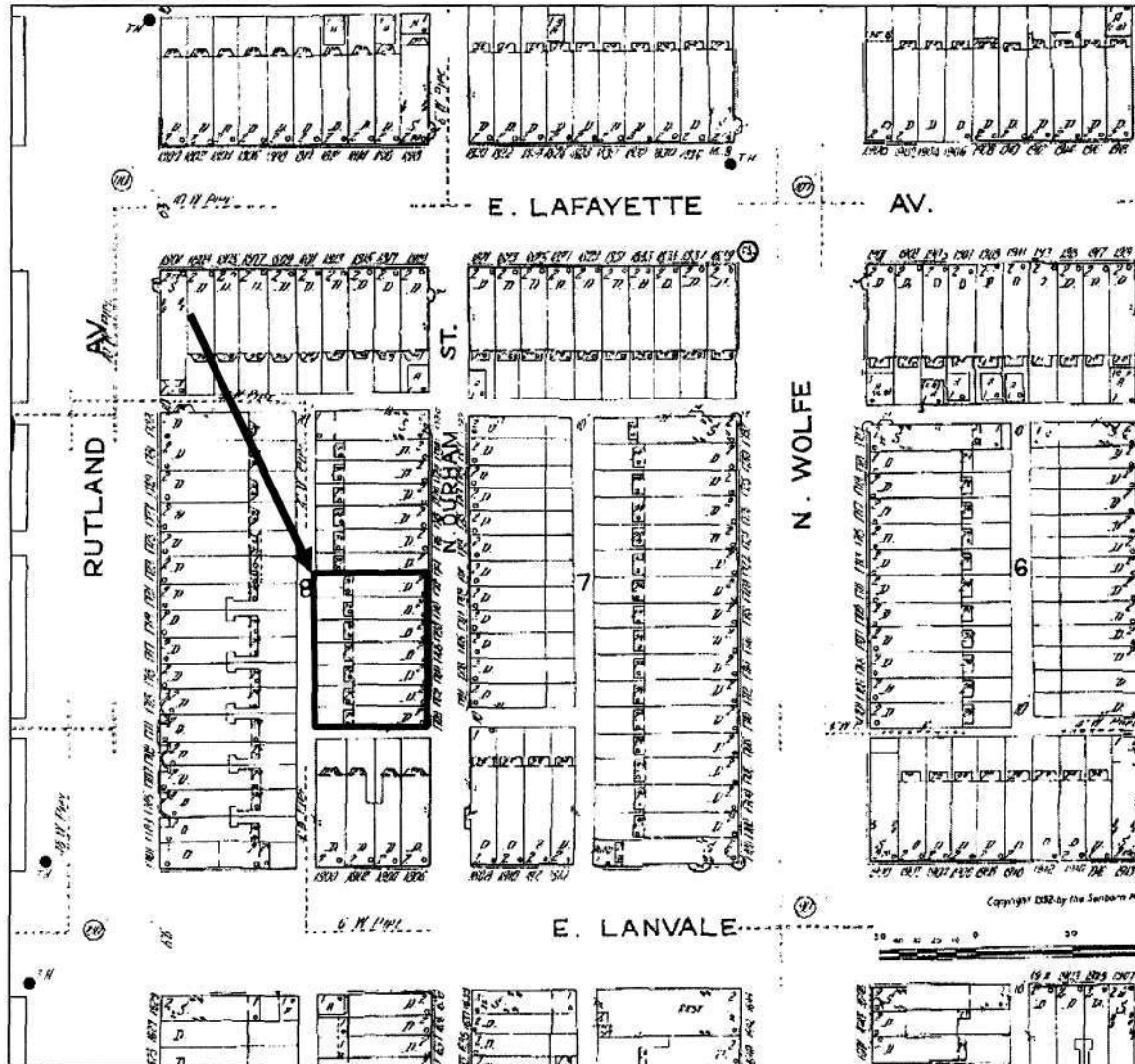
E. HOFFMAN

1500

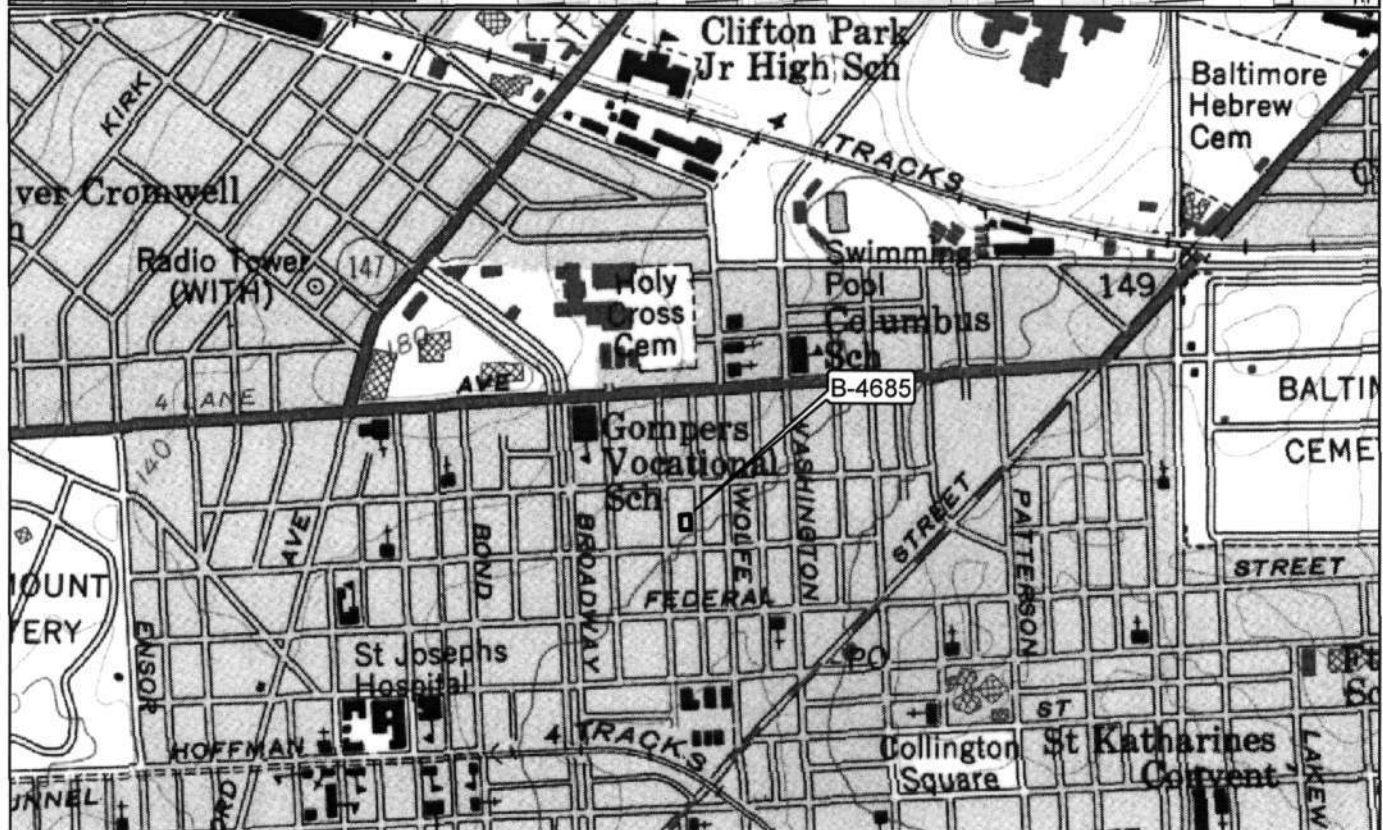
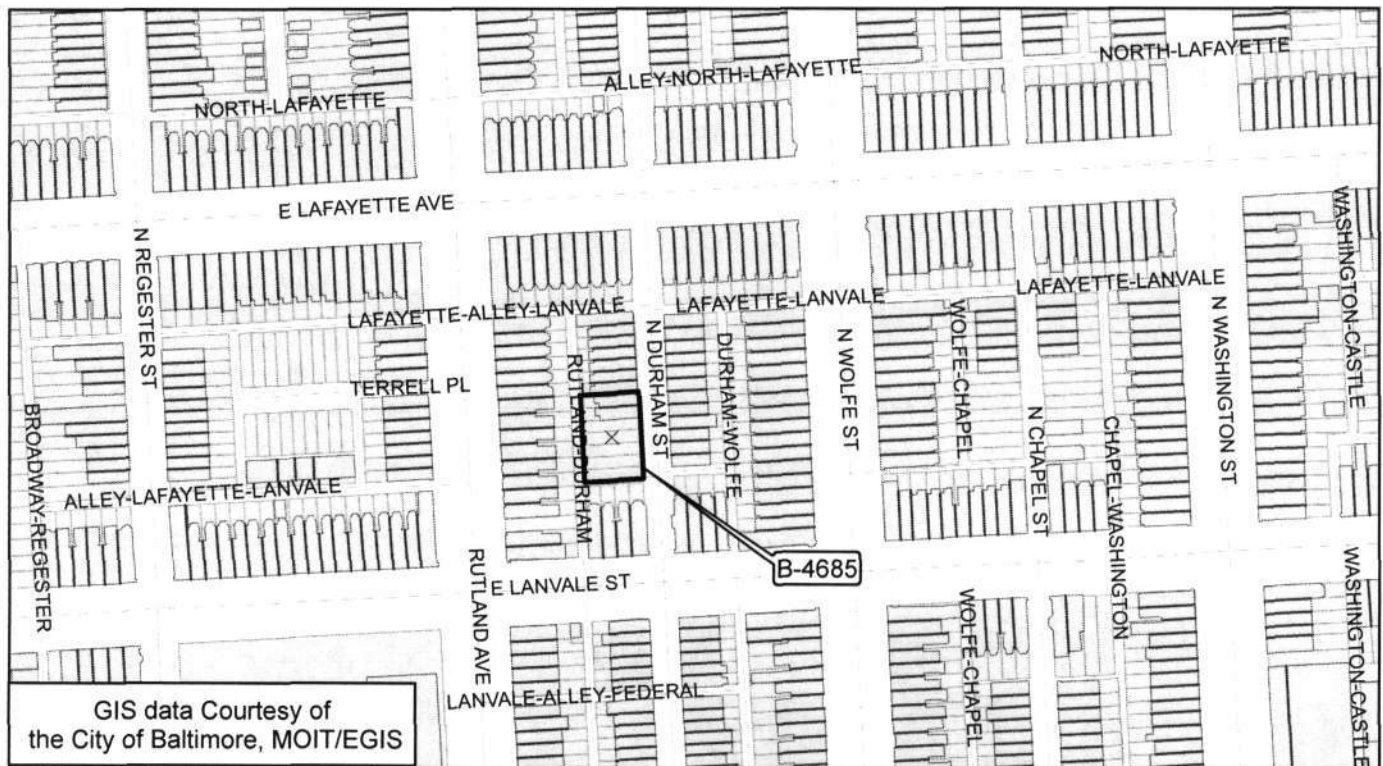
1501

ST. MARYS FREE CHURCH

B-4685
1700-1712 N. Durham Street
Sanborn Map 1914, Reprinted 1953
Volume 3, Sheet 311



B-4685
1700-1712 N. Durham Street
Block 1457, Lots 063-069
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.







B-4665

1700-1702 N. Durham St.

BAVO. MD

S. Affar

6/97

2/2

15030 0211 4 4 4 32

1700-1702 Durham

S3

1700-1712 Durham S half

S3

MD

[16]030 0211 N 4 N 22

B-4685

1700-1712 N. Durham St.

BALTO. MD

S. Allan

6/97

MD SHPD

1/2